

# Dr Neville Bews & Associates

Social Impact Assessors

Committed to building high trust environments

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06 November, 2018

**Shaun Taylor**  
**Savannah Environmental**  
PO Box 148  
Sunninghill, Gauteng  
2157

**Re: Witberg Wind Farm Part 2 Environmental Authorisation Amendment: Revision  
of Layout**

Dear Shaun

In respect of the additional information relating to bat sensitivity associated with the Witberg Wind Farm, which has resulted in the following changes:

1. The number of wind turbines being reduced from 27 to 25 and;
2. Turbine 14 being moved outside the identified bat high sensitivity area.

It is my considered opinion that, from a social perspective, these changes are most unlikely to result in any significant adjustments to the impacts as identified in the original social impact assessment report, dated 2011. These changes are also most unlikely to result in any additional social impacts. Consequently, there is no change in respect of my "Short Amendment Report" date 1 August, 2018.

Yours sincerely,



Neville Bews

# Dr. Neville Bews & Associates

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01 August, 2018

**Shaun Taylor**  
**Savannah Environmental**  
PO Box 148  
Sunninghill, Gauteng  
2157

**Re: Witberg Wind Farm Environmental Authorisation Amendment: Socio-economic Short Amendment Report**

Dear Shaun

Having considered the Witberg Wind Farm environmental authorisation amendment referred to above, I attach my impact statement herewith.

Yours sincerely,



Neville Bews

## **Social Impact Statement: Proposed Amendments to the Witberg Wind Energy Facility DEA ref. 12/12/20/1966**

### **Background**

Witberg Wind Power (Pty) Ltd is proposing a number of amendments for the Witberg Wind Energy Facility (WEF). The proposed amendments include:

- The wind turbine specifications are to change to:
  - Range of Rotor diameter: from 116 m to any rotor diameter between 116m up to 136m
  - Range of Hub height: from 92 m to any hub height range between 92m and up to 120m; and
  - Range of Wind turbine capacity: From 3 MW, to up to 5 MW.
- Wind Farm layout is to be re-positioned (turbines, substation, power lines, construction camp and associated infrastructure);
- Change in contact details of the holder of the EA;
- Correct minor spelling errors of approved listed activities;
- Extend the validity of the EA by an additional two (2) years;
- Increase the heights of the wind measuring masts from 80 m to a height between 92m and 120 m to match the hub height; and
- Amendment to Condition 40 of the additional conditions added to the EA (Ref: LSA 105-439) to refer to Witberg Wind Power (Pty) Ltd instead of G7.

This assessment is required to identify and assess any social impacts that may be associated with the proposed amendments to the wind farm layout and the wind turbine specifications as outlined above.

### **Socio-economic characteristics of the area**

Witberg WEF is situated within the Western Cape Province in the Central Karoo District Municipality and the Laingsburg Local Municipality as illustrated in **Figure 1**.

According to Census, 2011 the demographics of the Laingsburg Local Municipality are as follows:

**Geographic area** = 8 784.48 km<sup>2</sup>

**Population** = 8 289 people

**Population density** = 0.94/km<sup>2</sup>

**Households** = 2 408

**Household density** = 0.27/km<sup>2</sup>

Gender	People	Percentage
Female	4 155	50.13%
Male	4 134	49.87%
Population group	People	Percentage
Coloured	6 546	78.97%
White	1 103	13.31%
Black African	578	6.97%
Other	42	0.51%
First language	People	Percentage
Afrikaans	7 467	94.33%
English	134	1.69%
isiXhosa	96	1.21%
Setswana	56	0.71%
isiZulu	35	0.44%
Sesotho	34	0.43%
Other	29	0.37%
Sign language	29	0.37%
Tshivenda	9	0.11%
Xitsonga	9	0.11%
Sepedi	7	0.09%
isiNdebele	7	0.09%
SiSwati	5	0.06%
Not applicable	373	

In 2011 the area had a dependency ratio of 52,6 and, between 2001 and 2011, a population growth rate of 1,79%. There was an official unemployment rate of 17,9% and an official youth unemployment rate of 22% in the area in 2011.

### **Socio-economic impacts**

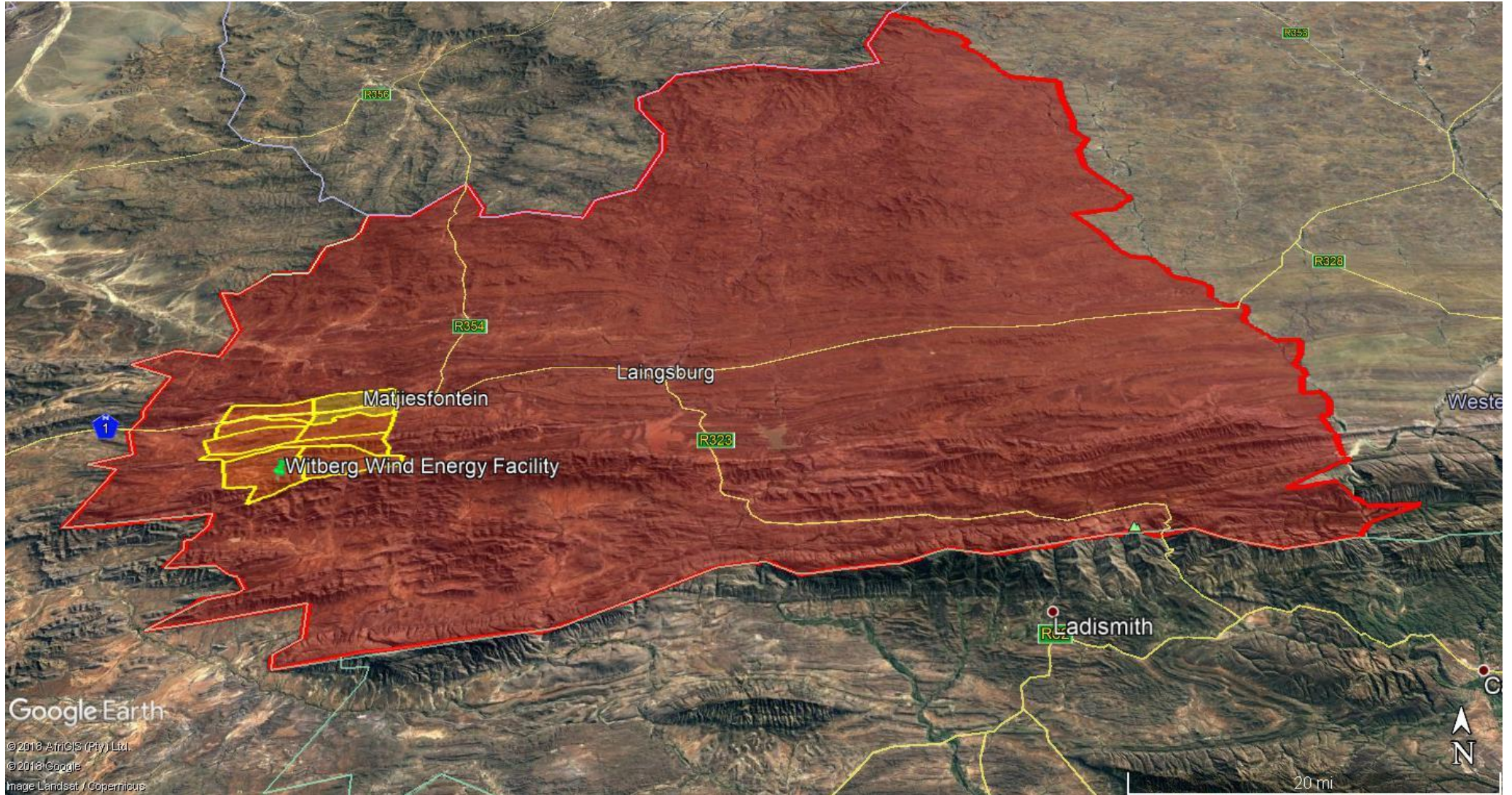
Considering the nature of the proposed amendments in association with the original SIA undertaken for the project, **it is unlikely that the proposed amendments will have any significant effect in respect of the social impacts associate with the project.** The only areas of some relevance would be associated with;

- Noise
- Visual
- Shadow flicker
- Blade throw and
- Fire linked

Although these issues could result in social impacts in the sense that they may overlap with the social in respect of health and safety and a sense of place, they actually fall with the domain of other areas of specialisation.

As the proposed amendments to the project are largely of a technical nature, apart from the proposal to extend the validity period of the environmental authorisation by an additional 2 years, it is unlikely that these amendments will result in any socially based advantages and disadvantages and therefore the impact assessment as undertaken during the EIA phase remains valid.

Figure 1: Location of Witberg Wind Energy Facility within Laingsburg LM



## Conclusion

On this basis it is feasible to accept that if there are any health hazards and/or visual effects associated with the proposed amendments to the project that these can be acceptably mitigated in terms of the recommendations of the appropriate specialist. **From a social perspective, no changes to the originally identified social impacts have been identified as a result of the proposed amendments. Moreover, no new or additional impacts have been identified. The proposed changes will therefore result in no (zero) changes to the significance rating within the original social impact assessment report (dated 2011) that was used to inform the approved EIA.** In addition to this, no new mitigation measures are required. **Lastly, the proposed amendments will not have any socially based disadvantages.** The proposed amendments can therefore be supported provided that the recommended mitigation measures as per the original social impact report (dated 2011) are adhered to.

### DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE

I, Neville Bews, as authorised representative of Dr Neville Bews & Associates hereby confirm my independence as a specialist and declare that neither I nor Dr Neville Bews & Associates have any interest, be it business, financial, personal or other, in any proposed activity, application or appeal in respect of which Dr Neville Bews & Associates was appointed, other than fair remuneration for work performed. In this instance this specifically applies in respect of the Witberg Wind Energy Facility EIA undertaken by Savannah Environmental on behalf of Witberg Wind Power (Pty) Ltd.

Signed:



Date: 01 August 2018